

## Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY: NEA:TTOMPKINS

APPROVED BY: NEA:ALATHERTONJR

S/S:REWOODS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 218765

NODIS

CHEROKEE EYES ONLY FOR DEPASSTSECY SAUNDERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT AMMAN 6166 SENT SECSTATE DATED SEP 13.

QUOTE

S E C R E T AMMAN 6166

NODIS/CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, US, JO, XF

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER FOR SECRETARY

REF: A. STATE 217221 B. AMMAN 6164

1. PRIME MINISTER HAS JUST SENT ME (13:15 SEPTEMBER 13 LOCAL) MESSAGE RESPONDING TO ORAL MESSAGE CONTAINED REFTEL A WHICH I DELIVERED TO HIM THIS MORNING. MESSAGE MARKED "CONFIDENTIAL".

2. BEGIN TEXT:

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EXCELLENCY,

FOLLOWING IS A MESSAGE FROM ME TO THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE. PLEASE BE SO KIND AS TO  
TRANSMIT IT TO HIM.

"DEAR MR. SECRETARY,

ON THE TENTH OF SEPTEMBER 1975, AMBASSADOR  
PICKERING DELIVERED TO HIS MAJESTY A MESSAGE FROM  
YOU WHICH CONTAINED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE FOLLOW-  
ING REQUEST "IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT I HOPE  
YOUR MAJESTY WILL BE ABLE TO INDICATE PUBLICLY A  
MORE POSITIVE JORDANIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD THE RECENT  
AGREEMENT, AND THAT YOU WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO  
CONVINCE YOUR SYRIAN NEIGHBORS TO BE LESS CRITICAL  
OF EGYPT AND MORE POSITIVE ABOUT THE PROSPECT OF  
SOMETHING MORE FOR THEMSELVES, EVEN IF IT IS LIMITED  
IN SCOPE."

HIS MAJESTY AND I EXPLAINED TO AMBASSADOR  
PICKERING, AS WE DID TO YOU WHEN YOU WERE IN AMMAN,  
THAT WE HAVE ALWAYS SUPPORTED THE STEP BY STEP  
APPROACH TO THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM; THAT WE HAVE  
ALWAYS SUPPORTED A CONTINUATION OF THE U.S.  
INITIATIVES AND ROLE IN THE AREA AND THAT WE HOPE  
THAT YOU WILL SHORTLY RESUME YOUR EFFORTS TOWARDS  
ACHIEVING FURTHER INTERIM AGREEMENTS. WE ALSO  
INDICATED OUR FULL SUPPORT FOR THE SINAI AGREEMENT  
IN PRINCIPLE. BUT WE DO HAVE SERIOUS RESERVATIONS,  
DOUBTS  
AND FEARS ABOUT ITS CONTENTS. WE EXPLAINED  
TO YOU THAT THIS IN NO WAY REFLECTS ON YOUR  
ROLE SINCE THE AGREEMENT IS AN EGYPTIAN - ISRAELI  
AGREEMENT AND NOT AN AMERICAN ONE - AS YOU TOLD  
PRESIDENT ASSAD.

BUT INSPITE OF OUR RESERVATIONS, WE WERE  
WILLING TO BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE IN  
RESPONDING TO YOUR REQUEST. WE WERE WILLING TO  
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ISSUE AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT SUPPORTING THE AGREE-  
MENT IN PRINCIPLE, AND THE U.S. ROLE IN THE AREA,  
AND THE POLICY OF STEP BY STEP. BUT WE WOULD  
HAVE HAD TO ALSO EXPRESS OUR RESERVATIONS ABOUT  
THE CONTENTS OF THE AGREEMENT, NOT BECAUSE WE ARE  
INTERESTED IN CRITICIZING EGYPT - WHICH WE ARE NOT -  
BUT IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO REMAIN IN A POSITION  
THAT WILL HELP US MEET YOUR SECOND REQUEST IN YOUR

MESSAGE, NAMELY TO INFLUENCE THE SYRIANS TO BE MORE POSITIVE AND LESS CRITICAL OF EGYPT. WE CERTAINLY COULD NOT DO THIS IF WE PUBLICLY TOOK EGYPT'S SIDE, EVEN IF WE APPROVED IN THE AGREEMENT'S CONTENTS - WHICH WE DO NOT.

THIS MORNING I WAS EXTREMELY SURPRISED TO HEAR YOUR REPLY TO OUR PROPOSED WAY OF RESPONDING FAVOURABLY TO YOUR REQUEST. YOU SAID "WE DO NOT NEED A STATEMENT FROM THE JORDANIANS CONCERNING THE SINAI AGREEMENT. WE SHALL CONDUCT OUR POLICY BY CONSULTING OUR BEST JUDGEMENT. WHEN JORDAN WANTS TO DISCUSS ITS OWN NEGOTIATIONS WE ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS IT."

NEEDLESS TO SAY, I CAN ANSWER THIS SHORT MESSAGE OF YOURS IN GREAT DETAIL, BUT I WILL LIMIT MYSELF TO THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS:-

1. I WISH TO REMIND YOU THAT THE "JORDANIANS" DID NOT COME TO YOU OFFERING TO ISSUE YOU A STATEMENT CONCERNING THE SINAI AGREEMENT. YOU REQUESTED IT. AND IF YOU DO NOT NEED IT, WE ARE HAPPY TO KNOW THAT, SINCE WE WERE NOT INTERESTED IN GIVING IT IN THE FIRST PLACE.

2. I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOU WILL CONDUCT YOUR POLICY BY CONSULTING YOUR BEST JUDGEMENT. I INCERELY HOPE THAT THE RESULTS OF YOUR POLICY IN THE AREA WILL PROVE THAT YOU HAVE EXCELLENT JUDGEMENT.

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EM JORDAN WAS READY - AS YOU MAY RECALL - TO DISCUSS ITS OWN NEGOTIATIONS SOMETIME AGO. YOUR BEST JUDGEMENT AT THE TIME DID NOT MAKE THAT POSSIBLE. SO IT SEEMS TO BE SOMEWHAT LATE TO SAY THAT WHEN JORDAN WANTS TO DISCUSS ITS OWN NEGOTIATIONS YOU ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THEM.

SINCERELY,

ADID AL-RIFAI  
PRIME MINISTER "

ACCEPT, EXCELLENCY, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

SINCERELY,

ZAID AL-RIFAI  
PRIME MINISTER

3. COMMENT: MESSAGE IS AS SHARP AS PREFIGURED REFTEL  
(B). BELIEVE IT HAS BEEN CHECKED WITH KING, BUT HAVE  
NOT CONFIRMED THAT POINT. FRA  
KLY SEE NO FURTHER VALUE  
IN CONTINUING THIS EXCHANGE WHICH CAN ONLY LEAD TO  
ADDITIONAL RECRIMINATIONS OVER THE ISSUE. KING'S  
PRESENT EMOTIONAL STRESS AND THE CONSTANT SHIFTING OF  
FACTORS ON THREE BASIC ISSUES -- HAWKS, SYRIA, AND  
REACTION TO AGREEMENT -- ARE UNLIKELY TO PUT HIM IN  
FRAME OF MIND WHERE ANYTHING CONSTRUCTIVE WOULD RESULT.  
INDEED, IF QUESTION IS PURSUED FURTHER, HE IS LIKELY,  
ON PAST FORM, TO MAKE EMOTIONAL DECISIONS WHICH  
PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE IN BEST LONG TERM INTEREST OF  
EITHER JORDAN OR US. END COMMENT.

4. ORIGINAL BEING POUCHED TO BREMER.  
PICKEERING UNQUOTE KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, US, JO, XF, IS, EG, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (RIFAI, ZAYD)  
**To:** GENEVA  
**Type:** TE  
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